

REMARKS

As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c), the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-4	pending original claims
Claims 5-6	cancelled new claims

Further, pursuant to the “special” provision of MPEP 708.01 for reissue proceedings, the Applicants request the Examiner take up for action this reissue proceeding in advance of other applications/proceedings, except those involved in litigation and prepare an office action in order that prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability can be facilitated.

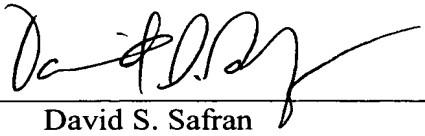
The Examiner’s non-final Office Action of December 23, 2003 has been received and its contents reviewed. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendments canceling claims 5 and 6 and for the reasons to follow. The Examiner’s indication that claims 1-4 are allowed is greatly appreciated.

With regard to the Examiner’s formality objection, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.172(a), please find attached a newly executed Statement Under 3.73(b) for Kulicke & Soffa Investments, Inc. and Tokyo Semitsu Co., Ltd. each indicating the reel and frame of the recorded assignment.

With regard to the Examiner's finding that claims 1-4 are an invention distinct from that of claims 5 and 6, and, further, holding claims 5 and 6 as withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention, the Applicants have cancelled the non-elected claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability for claims 1-4.

While the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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